Depletion of Resources in Darjeeling and Terai Region

908. DR. (SHRIMATI) BHARATIRAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Himalayan hills in Darjeeling and the Terai region are being Increasingly depleted of forest resources;

(b) if so, the specific steps taken for their protection; and

(c) the special measures taken by Government for afforestation and generation of public awareness regarding enviornment and development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the state and will be laid on the table of House.

Universalisation of Elementary Education

909. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the goals set for Universalisation of Elementary Education have been revised from time to time;

(b) if so, on how many occasions these have been revised;

(c) the basic factors responsible for shifting this goal to 2000 AD now; and

(d) the details of the efforts being made by Government to realise this goal by 2000 AD?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) The National Policy on Education 1986 envisaged that all children who would attain the age of eleven years by 1990 would have five years of schooling or its equivalent through the Non-Formal stream; and that by 1995 all children will be provided free and compulsory education upto fourteen years of age.

The revised National Policy on Education, 1992 states that free and compulsory education of satisfactory quality would be provided to all children upto 14 years of age before we enter the 21st centuary.

(c) and (d) The factors responsible for the country's inability to achieve targets of universalisation of elementary education so far include:

— Socio-economic and cultural constraints.

— Rapid increase in population.

— Non-availability of required funds.

— Non-provision of necessary infrastructure, facilities, teachers, teaching learning materials etc.

— Persistence of regional, gender and caste disparities.

The Programme of Action, 1992 prepared in pursuance of the revised National Policy on Education, provides the broad framework for achieving the targets of Universalisation of Elementary Education. In this context Government of India has initiated a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Operation Blackboard, Teacher Education, Non-Formal Education and Mid-Day Meal Scheme. Besides, State Governments are providing a number of Incentives which include free text books and stationery, school uniforms and attendence scholarships to improve participation and retention of children.

जल प्रदूषण को नियंत्रित करने में सरकार की विफलता

910. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी॰ सोलंकी:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार जल प्रदूषण के नियंत्रण में बुरी तरह से विफल रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 के अधीन बहि:स्त्राव और उत्सर्जन की स्वीकार्य निर्धारित सीमा को लागू करने हेतु किए जा रहे प्रयासों का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि जल प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के अधिकारी उक्त अधिनियम के अधीन बहि:स्त्राव और उत्सर्जन के लिए निर्धारित अधिकतम स्वीकार्य सीमा का कार्यान्वयन सुनिश्चित नहीं कर रहे हैं और सरकार ने उन अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध कोई कार्रवाई नहीं की है?